

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05209 111009Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

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R 110935Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7902

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY, US

SUBJ: JERUSALEM POST (BLITZER) ARTICLE RE SYRIAN-
ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AUGUST 11 JERUSALEM POST
ARTICLE BY WASHINGTON BASED CORRESPONDENT WOLF BLITZER
RE REPORTED US NOTIFICATION TO SYRIA THAT ISRAEL HAS AGREE
TO NEGOTIATIONS FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT AFTER IMPLEMENTATION
OF SECOND STAGE ACCORD WITH EGYPT.

2. BEGIN TEXT THE U.S. HAS INFORMED SYRIA THAT
ISRAEL HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS
FOR A PARTIAL PULLBACK ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS
IMMEDIATELY AFTER ISRAEL AND EGYPT IMPLEMENT AN
INTERIM ACCORD IN SINAI, RELIABLE SOURCES SAID
YESTERDAY.

3. ISRAEL'S ACCEPTANCE OF INTERIM ACCORD NEGOTIATIONS
WITH SYRIA HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MAJOR FACTORS THAT
HAS LED THE EGYPTIANS TO MAKE ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS
DURING THE CURRENT ROUND OF TALKS, THE SOURCES
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 05209 111009Z

SAID, PRESIDENT SADAT HAS LONG BEEN ON RECORD AS

INSISTING THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SYRIAN FRONT MUST FOLLOW ANOTHER PARTIAL AGREEMENT IN SINAI.

4. THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA WOULD PROBABLY BE CONDUCTED THROUGH SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER'S GOOD OFFICES.

5. AMERICAN OFFICIALS CONCEDE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT AND MORE PROTRACTED THAN THE TALKS WITH EGYPT, BUT INSIST THAT PROGRESS ON THAT FRONT MUST BE ATTEMPTED. OVER THE PAST WEEKS AND MONTHS, KISSINGER HAS IMPRESSED UPON ISRAEL OFFICIALS THE NECESSITY OF AGREEING TO START NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA ONCE THE TALKS WITH EGYPT ARE CONCLUDED, THE SOURCES SAID.

6. THE ISRAEL-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT IS EXPECTED TO HAVE A MINIMUM THREE-YEAR DURATION, DURING WHICH TIME THERE WILL BE A FREEZE ON NEGOTIATIONS ON THE EGYPTIAN FRONT. BUT ALL THE PARTIES UNDERSTAND THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE ATTEMPTED ON THE OTHER FRONTS DURING THAT PERIOD.

7. ALTHOUGH PRIME MINISTER RABIN HAS SAID PUBLICLY THAT HE PREFERS TO NEGOTIATE ONLY AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT WITH SYRIA AND NOT A PARTIAL PULLBACK, HE HAS APPARENTLY RECONSIDERED HIS POSITION.

8. THE SOURCES SAID THAT ISRAEL WILL ATTEMPT TO REACH AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA THAT WOULD INCLUDE ONLY "NON-SUBSTANTIAL" TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS. BUT THEY CONCEDED THAT SYRIA WOULD NO DOUBT INSIST THAT ISRAEL IMPLEMENT A MORE MASSIVE RETREAT.

9. THUS THE SOURCES READILY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT A STALEMATE IS POSSIBLE, IF NOT LIKELY.

10. BUT IF THE ISRAEL-SYRIAN TALKS END IN FAILURE, THE SOURCES CONTINUED, ISRAEL HAS A COMMITMENT FROM WASHINGTON THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL ADOPT A CO-ORDINATED POLICY AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. END TEXT
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PAGE 03 TEL AV 05209 111009Z

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